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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fifty-second session
Agenda item 10

RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

Letter dated 18 April 1996 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Angola to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Chairman of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Human Rights

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Angola to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other international organizations in Switzerland presents its compliments to the Chairman of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Human Rights and has the honour to transmit the following text* to him for distribution as an official document of the Commission on Human Rights.

(Signed) Adriano PARREIRA
Permanent Representative

* The document is reproduced as received, in the original language only.

ANNEX

PERMANENT MISSION OF ANGOLA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
IN GENEVA

Please allow me to refer to the Report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, for this 52nd Session of the Commssion on Human Rights. My delegation shares with the Special Rapporteur, and certainly with all other Members of the Commission, her fully justified preoccupations made explicit in her repport (E/CN.4/1996/100) concerning maltreatment, exploitation, negligent treatment, prostitution and sexual abuse of children all over the world.

I would like, on behalf of the angolan delegation, to draw the attention of the Members of this Commission, as well as of the Observers, intergovernamental and non governamental organizations, to the growing numbers of prostitution and sexual abuse implicating children in Africa.

Although we esteem that the report did contribute, in general terms, for a better preception of child prostitution in some regions of the world, we regret that it did not expose enough this specific situation in the african continent. This is very unfortunate if we assume that more and more international observers are unanimous in considering an increasing number of agents who, in an organized and systematic way, promote child pornography, child prostitution, sexual abuse and other preverse forms of exploitation of children in Africa.

As it is stated in the repport, the determinant factors contributing to the spreading of prostitution and all forms of child abuse, particularly in countries involved in internal conflits, are related to underdevelopment and poverty as well as to degradating living conditions, shortage and often total absence of social structures of all types, illeteracy and misery, which constitute systematic human rights violations victimizing the absolute majority of the african populations all over the continent.

The angolan delegation has serious reasons to believe that african children, certainly the poorest and less protected in the world, constitute a considerable part of the 84 millions of children who were, in a way or another, victims of sexual abuse by the more than a half million paedophiles, acting allmost in absolute impunity, sometimes integrated in sex-tours which are advertised openly in their countries through the ***mass media***, including the international electronic networks. These paedophiles do in fact take advantage of the miserable living conditions of street children in general, and particularly in Africa.

But sex tourism is only a more visible part of this most repulsive and disgusting activity. My delegation is worried about the preocupations of the Special Rapporteur and of the Secretary general, made explicit in their repports, concening the behavour of the UN forces engaged in peace keeping operations, which do not allways perform at the highest standart of conduct (E/CN.4/1996/110/Add.1).

It is our most serious opinion that this Commission should take in consideration and submet to appreciation the association sugested by the Special Rapporteur (in relation to a specific country in south east Asia) between sudden growth in prostitution and the arrival of so called peace keeping troops. We strongly believe that this unfortunate reality may also be true for other countries, namely in Africa. The Commission sholud declare that situation as inadmissible and alarming, and take immediate and consistent action.

All Members of this Commission will certainly agree that the international community is not adequately responding to a worldwide deterioration and degradation of the rights of the child. In our opinion, under the intersessional period, the subsidiary bodies of this Commission should also give priority to the analysis of the reasons why fifty years of human rights activity seems so fustrating in regard to the protection of children against neglect, cruelty and exploitation. At the same time the right to development shoul be promoted, implemented and strenghed in Africa and in all poor regions of the world.

Allthough our Government is deeply commited with the imperatives of a global and complex peaceprocess, angolan authorities are more than eager to approach positively the very difficult situation of children in our country, in view to bring about a definitive rehabilitation of the rights of the child in Angola.

As a confirmation of our sincere commitment to the promotion, implementation and safeguarding of the human rights in Angola, it is my honnour to announce publically that in a letter adressed to the General Secretary of the United Nations, dated 13 February 1996, His Excellency President Dos Santos declared the readiness of the angolan Government, (wich requested technical cooperation and assistance of the Center for Human Rights and the High Commissioner for Human Rights of the United Nations) to wellcome and organize the realization of a major Conference on Human Rights in Africa, expected to be attended at the highest level by all african nations, which Governments are warmly invited to participate, as well as by the representatives of the intergovernamental and non-governamental organizartions of the Continent.

Geneva, 19 April 1996

Professor Dr. Adriano Parreira
Ambassador Permanent Representative

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QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL AND OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

Letter dated 19 April 1996 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Angola to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Chairman of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Human Rights

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Angola to the United Nations Office at Geneva and the other international organizations in Switzerland presents its compliments to the Chairman of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Human Rights and has the honour to submit to him the attached text*, for circulation as an official document of the Commission on Human Rights.

(Signed) Adriano PARREIRA
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

PERMANENT MISSION OF ANGOLA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
IN GENEVA

Through this letter, my delegation is reacting to the statement delivered, on the 17 April, by the italian delegation on behalf of the European Union for this 52nd Session of the Commission on Human Rights.

To affirm that difficulties may emerge during the implementation of a peace process, namely in Angola, is not only a singular evidence of an unnecessary tautological exercise. It is a deliberate try to manipulate concepts through the distortion of meaning, and for this reason is not an innocent exercise. To affirm that difficulties occure in an ongoing peace process in a country completely devastated by an unfair war imposed on the angolan people, is indeed bizarre and allow us to raise the most justified doubts about the seriousness of that text. Indeed, the statement made on behalf of the European Union is not a serious one, and we should simply ignore it if we did not consider it offensive for our dignity as a sovereign state.

I can assure that the Government of Angola allways did, and will continue to do its best to make sure that the peace process become successful. All efforts will be exhausted and all ressources have being used by our Authorities, to restitute to the angolan people the right to live in peace, a right which has been denied to us for the last thirty five years. We sincerely believe that UNITA is also doing its best to assure the irreversibility of the peace process.

Allow me please to ask a few questions: did the European Union exhausted all its ressources, and have done everything it could do to assure peace in Angola? Did any communitarian european country raise at that time its voice in favour of the angolan people during the recent liberation war against colonialism? Still, the right of the people to decide on their own future and destiny is a fundamental human right.

When the racist *appartheid* south-african army invaded our country, killing thousands of angolans, mostly of them defensless children and women, spreeding indiscriminately death all over, leaving behind millions of anti-personnel land mines, did any of the european communitarian countries, or the European Union itself, come to rescue all those million of innocents?

Did in those days any european country defend in this Commission the rights of the angolan people to life? Not a single one, allthough the right to life is a fundamental human right, the one which give sense to everything we are doing here.

Where could one find those who now pretend to be the Palatine of human rights? In no place, Honourable Delegates. They remained dead silent.

How much did European Union contribute to the reconstruction of Angola? I am obliged to inform you that my country is still expecting that the European Union fullfills the promises launched in Brussels last year, a situation which is certainly not contributing for the peace process implementation, neither for the prevention of the so called "still persisting difficulties", as the statement says. If during all these years we were to wait for the European Union to come and help the angolan Government to defend the right of our people to life, believe me, the angolans would all be dead by now.

My delegation vehemently rejects the arrogancy and paternalism implicit in the *déjà vu* statement of the representant of Italy on behalf of the European Union. We definitively refuse to be trialed by anyone. This fastidious and redundant persistency will not contribute to the exercise of the noble principle of mutual respect among sovereign states.

Let me assure you that in what concerns the immediate defense of the fundamental rights of the angolan people, the angolan Government will never compromise. The implementation, promotion and safeguard of human rights is the greatest priority for the angolan Authorities.
Let all nations together engage, once for ever, in the dissipation of all attempts of vulgarity and banalizatuion of this *forum* and coordinate our efforts to avoid, by all means, the futile exercise of confrontation. Let us in stead, definitively embrace a positive and sustainable meaningsfull approach to human rights based on dialogue, on continued negotiation, genuine consultation and consensus building.

Geneva, 18 April 1996

Adriano Parreira

Professor Dr. Adriano Parreira
Ambassador Permanent Representative